

THIRTY VILLISTAS KILLED, SEVEN AMERICANS WOUNDED, IN BATTLE WITH OUTLAWS

First Clash With Rearguard South of Guerrero Indicates Bandits Will Be Forced to Stand and Fight American Forces

Villa Said to Have Been Wounded in Assault on Carranza Garrison at Guerrero—Massacre There Denied—Funston Confident of His Men's Success

EL PASO, March 31.—Thirty Villistas were killed, among them one of their leaders, Fernandez, in a fight with a detachment of the 7th United States Cavalry at San Geronimo, according to information given to Carranzista Consul Garcia by Colonel Gavira, commander of the Juarez garrison, today. Several Americans were wounded.

JUAREZ, Mex., March 31 (By courier to El Paso).—The Mayor of Temosachic today reported officially to Commander Gavira's headquarters that he had seen Villa in Temosachic and that the bandit was wounded.

American troops have caught up with Pancho Villa in his flight and a clash with the rearguard already has occurred, according to reports received by General Funston. The fight was said to have taken place on the Northwestern Railway south from Guerrero. Details and the result of the fight were not told.

Efforts are now being made to force the fleeing outlaws to make a stand and fight. Troops are converging from three directions, and it appears that Villa will be cornered. His move now seems to have been to the south following a raid on the Carranza garrison at Guerrero, in which, it is said, the entire force of 172 Carranzistas had been massacred.

General Gavira, at Juarez, however, denied that the massacre had occurred, stating that advices from the Carranza commander at Guerrero said the Villistas were routed and that Villa himself had been shot in the leg. Forces from the north, with Madera as a base, are rapidly moving southward to join details of Carranzistas from Chihuahua City, together with Colonel Dodd's columns, which are supposed to be in the lead and which are supposed to have had the brush with the Villa rearguard.

Transportation of supplies for Pershing's expedition was delayed at El Paso, because of lack of equipment on the Mexican Northwestern, and because General Gavira has not yet received official instruction to permit the shipments.

VILLA REAR GUARD CLASHES WITH AMERICAN PURSUERS

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., March 31.—American troops have caught up with Francisco Villa, fired upon a portion of his forces and are now making a tremendous effort to track his headlong flight and force him to fight.

After a week of the hard marching, Villa's main force has been located working along the Mexican Northwestern Railroad which extends south from Guerrero and the rear guard fired upon the pursuing American troops, according to reports reaching General Funston. He said they came from sources which he believes thoroughly reliable, but refused to name them.

General Funston is certain actual fighting has occurred between United States soldiers and Villista bandits.

"Our reports declare Villa has received reinforcements," said General Funston. "But we are confident our capable men, under strong leadership, will be able to take care of themselves. Some of our isolated detachments are being sent to track the outlaws and make a stand against any of our larger forces he will discover their mettle."

Funston's reports which were received last night and early today asserted that Carranzistas were co-operating fully with the American troops in a supreme effort to make Villa abandon his flight and make a stand. General Funston considers this the only hope for the American punitive expedition to accomplish its purpose.

"Unless we can bring Villa to decisive fighting," said Funston, "he can continue his flight straight through to Central America, and here the difficulties of maintaining a line of communication from Columbus very much further south."

General Pershing, the usual crop of rumors, General Funston said there undoubtedly would be unauthentic reports of American casualties.

General Pershing, apparently warned that Villa was about to make a stand, is at the front with his men. According to Funston, the superior leadership of the American general will more than offset the superior leadership of the German.

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THE WEATHER

The intoxicating effects of spring weather are to be responsible for many stragglers from the normal at this season, all almanacs agree. The lone German who captured a ship with a revolver undoubtedly had spring fever; he didn't know what to do with himself and so he decided to amuse himself and America at large, and he evidently succeeded. The only thing wrong with the story is that the German didn't get away, as a beloved Vagabond like that deserves. It is easy to horrify, and to scare and even to interest humanity, but it is mighty hard to make the whole world laugh. Mr. Schiller, the hero of this romance of the sea, would have given the greatest of German poets and romancers who had the same name, a bit as good as that of his William Tell. As it is, he ought to make his mark in the world of fiction himself, if he will translate his actions into prose.

FORECAST

For Philadelphia and vicinity—Fair tonight; Saturday increasing cloudiness; much change in temperature; gentle winds, mostly north-westerly.

For details see page 17.

LOST AND FOUND

HANDSOMELY bound leather on 42 car. 11 p. m. Wednesday containing \$14.00 and \$2.00. Return to 1100 Walnut St. and receive reward. Return to 1100 Walnut St. and receive reward. Return to 1100 Walnut St. and receive reward.

Twining Report Fears for City Hall Safety; Twining Admits Work There O. K.

One of Director Twining's objections to location of station and four-track subway under City Hall, given as "Objection 4" in his report presented to Councils' Finance Committee on Wednesday, in the wording of the report was (Page 64, paragraph 5):

4.—Liability of damage to the City Hall.

Director Twining today, however, said:

"I never knew that anybody had questioned that the four-track subway and the station could be built under City Hall."

MALANCOURT LOST; FRENCH QUIT VILLAGE

Retire Before Foe Rather Than Incur Needless Sacrifices of Men

GERMANS LOSE HEAVILY

The Crown Prince has resumed his great drive on Verdun with furious attacks on both sides of the River Meuse. The strongly fortified village of Malancourt, 10 miles northwest of Verdun, was captured by the Germans last night. Frontal attacks by massed German legions drove the French out of the village, an important highway combination point, but the French still hold redoubts commanding the highway.

Three heavy German infantry attacks were preceded by a terrific bombardment from German batteries on the heights surrounding the town.

The French hold on the village of Bethincourt, two miles east of Malancourt, is seriously threatened by the capture of Malancourt. It appears certain that the next great German attack on the west bank of the Meuse will be directed against the Bethincourt fortified position.

PARIS, March 31.—In a fierce night attack the Germans captured Malancourt, the French War Office announced today.

The assault was delivered upon three sides of the village, and the French were driven out of the village.

The French retired, but still hold a position on the outskirts of Malancourt proper, which is now a mass of ruins.

The infantry assault on Malancourt was preceded by a violent bombardment. Beginning yesterday, the German artillery increased its cannonade up to the thunderous roll of drum fire, and long into the night the big guns continued to rain their steel upon the French positions before the village.

As the troops advanced the range of the German cannon was lengthened and they opened a curtain of fire behind the French ranks. The Teutons rolled forward.

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JOHNSON ATTACK DRIVES FACTIONS INTO OPEN WAR

Charges Coercion of Officeholders in Favor of Brumbaugh

OTHERS MAY RESIGN

The charge of Charles Johnson, of Norristown, that Governor Brumbaugh and Attorney General Francis Shunk, are coercing State officeholders into supporting the Governor's presidential candidacy, accompanied by Mr. Johnson's resignation as State Insurance Commissioner, was interpreted today by politicians as the signal for open war between the Penrose and the Brumbaugh-Vare factions, and the abandonment of all hope that may have lingered in the Republican State Organization that a truce might be patched up.

It was generally taken for granted that Senator Penrose knew about the move of Johnson beforehand, and it was said that Johnson and other State officeholders, who are expected to resign their positions to enter the factional war, would take an active part in opposing the Governor in the campaign for Presidential delegates.

Speaker Charles A. Ambler, reputed Brumbaugh candidate for the Republican nomination for Auditor General today declined to comment "at this time" upon the resignation of Charles Johnson as State Insurance Commissioner.

Johnson sponsored the Ambler candidacy when the Speaker decided to enter the contest for the nomination. His position as treasurer of the Republican State Committee and his former unquestioned allegiance to Senator Penrose gave his endorsement of Ambler considerable importance because of Johnson's apparent desertion of Penrose for the Governor.

"I do not care to discuss Mr. Johnson's resignation," he said.

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"Joe" Gibbs Is Promoted

City Hall appointments made today include the selection of Joseph C. Gibbs, 1708 Arch street, for the position of first assistant in the engineering force of the Bureau of Surveys. The appointment was made by Director Datesman, of the Department of Public Works and carries a salary of \$1200 a year.

Ridley Park Plans Flower Show

The Ridley Park Civic Association will hold a flower show later in the season. It is planned to hold a baby show in conjunction with the floral display. F. J. Bismell, of Ridley Park, is at the head of the committee in charge.

MAYOR, ACCUSED BY TAYLOR, NOW SAYS HE'LL GIVE PEOPLE KIND OF TRANSIT THEY WANT

Smith Says He Will Go Before Finance Committee Next Monday and Urge That the Demands of the Public Be Granted

Executive Denies Corporation or Boss Control—Twining Refuses to Answer Charges, but Is Willing to Tell Councilmen What Is Behind Transportation Controversy

Mayor Smith announced this afternoon that he would go before the Finance Committee of Councils at its special meeting next Monday afternoon and urge that the people of Philadelphia be given what they want in the rapid transit fight. If the people want the plans as suggested by former Director Taylor, instead of those of Director Twining, then they should have them, the Mayor declared.

The Mayor's announcement followed the accusation by former Transit Director Taylor that the Mayor was responsible for the Twining emasculated transit plan.

The Mayor asserted that he had never changed his position in regard to rapid transit, and reiterated his statement made several weeks ago that the people of the city would be given what they want. Mr. Twining, however, the Mayor insisted, should be given an opportunity to bring his views before the people and they should be given intelligent consideration.

While making no direct reply to the specific charges contained in the statement made public this morning by former Transit Director Taylor, the Mayor declared that he would defy any person to impugn to him improper motives. He asserted emphatically that he was not owned by corporations or political leaders.

Transit Director Twining declined to answer any of the charges of his predecessor in office. Carefully evading any of the questions raised by the Taylor statement, the Director announced that he would answer nothing until he went before the Finance Committee of Councils this afternoon, at its special meeting.

Mr. Twining at the same time intimated that he would be willing to be authorized or asked by the members of the Finance Committee, to tell what is actually behind the transit controversy.

THE MAYOR'S STATEMENT

The complete statement handed out in typewritten form by Mayor Smith follows:

"My position now is, as it always has been, that Mr. Twining should be given an opportunity to present publicly his suggestions as to rapid transit, so that they might be compared with Mr. Taylor's suggestions, and then the people, for themselves, through their representatives in Councils, might finally determine which of these plans best suited them.

"If the people want the plans suggested by Mr. Taylor, then that is what they should have, and it is my purpose to do my best to see that they get them. I only hope that the Finance Committee, when the transit item is under discussion, and publicly urge that the people be given what they want."

"I do not intend to enter into a deliberate and malicious perversion of the facts done to represent public opinion. Mere innuendo is an injustice to me, and an imposition on the public.

"I do not intend to impute to me any improper motives in any public acts of mine. I am not owned by any corporation or political leader; nor am I to be deterred from doing what I believe to be my duty by misleading or untruthful newspaper editorials. I have repeatedly stated as to transit that I stand for what the people want."

The Twining emasculated substitute plan, as it is called in a dozen places in the statement by the former transit director, Mr. Taylor charged that the adoption of the plan would mean giving the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company the stranglehold on Philadelphia and declared that any proper and efficient rapid transit development for this city would be impossible under the Twining hobnail system.

The responsibility for the changes was laid directly to Mayor Smith. Mr. Taylor called upon the citizens of Philadelphia to assert themselves. Director Twining's argument for an increased fare until 1960 is, therefore, Mr. Taylor asserted, the original plan for a four-track subway under City Hall and a great island station there. It was shown, he said, that the entire system and the proposed changes there are not being recommended in good faith, it is charged by the former director.

The removal of the City Hall station to Broad and Arch streets, Mr. Taylor directly charged, will virtually prevent the free movement of passengers between the Market street subway and the Broad street subway. The construction of the four-track subway under City Hall, and the location of the station at that point, he declared, are essential to the city's entire plan for transit development.

The proposal to tax the outlying sections for their local high-speed lines was ignored temporarily by the former Director, but City Solicitor Connelly, in an opinion issued simultaneously with the statement from Mr. Taylor, held it unconstitutional and almost equivalent to confiscation to levy such a tax.

Horace V. MacFarland, chairman of the All-Philadelphia Rapid Transit League, today demanded the resignation of Director Twining. "His usefulness is ended," he said. "He should resign at once. Every citizen should write in a demand that he be 'fired' at once unless he goes into voluntary retirement."

Although he would make no direct reply to the charges of Mr. Taylor, Director Twining said:

"I have nothing to say. I do not intend to enter either a political or a personal discussion of the matter. I have done my work and the report is there. That is all there is to it. I know Mr. Taylor has his objects in view and I have mine. My report is there and my conscience is clear."

When reminded of Mr. Taylor's charge that he had admitted even after he had prepared his report that the original plans under City Hall were possible, the Director said:

"I never knew that anybody had questioned that the four-track subway and the station could be built under City Hall."

Director Twining has been requested to appear before the Finance Committee of Councils this afternoon at 2 o'clock, and it is possible that the entire transit problem will be thrown open to a general discussion by the members of the Finance Committee at that time. It is the intention of the committee leaders to determine definitely upon the amount of the transit item in the municipal plan today. Whether it will be increased to a figure above the \$35,000,000 requested by Director Twining is causing widespread speculation.

State Senator Edwin H. Vare today

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STATE POLICE GUARD WYOMING VALLEY

Entire Force Summoned to Prevent Lawlessness During the Trolley Strike

WILKES-BARRE, March 31.—Before sundown every member of the State police in Pennsylvania will be in the Wyoming Valley to suppress lawlessness and maintain peace and order while the trolley strike is over.

Sheriff George F. Bush announced today that he had appealed for aid of the State troopers and he declared that the complete force was on its way here. Troop B is stationed here permanently. Troop C, of Portville, has been here for several weeks. Troop A is on its way from Greensburg and Troop D is coming from Butler.

The troopers will be under the charge of Sheriff Bush and Captain Pletcher, of Troop B. They will be scattered in squads throughout the entire valley.

In addition to these forces the Sheriff announced that he has sworn in scores of deputies and that these deputies will aid the troopers in maintaining peace.

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QUICK NEWS

VARE LOSES \$200,000 CLAIM

Senator Edwin H. Vare's claim for \$200,000 for work which he claimed to have done at League Island Park was struck from the loan bill at a meeting of the Finance Committee at the suggestion of Chairman Gaffney. Gaffney later announced that he would introduce a bill in Councils on Thursday to pay Vare's claim outside the loan.

RUSSIAN HOSPITAL SHIP TORPEDOED AND SUNK

PARIS, March 31.—The Russian hospital ship Portugal has been torpedoed and sunk. The destruction of the ship was officially announced today.

45 BRITISH SAILORS DROWN; CUTTER CAPSIZES

LONDON, March 31.—Forty-five sailors of the British cruiser Conquest were drowned through the capsizing of a cutter during a gale, it was officially announced today.

BRITAIN CALLS MARRIED MEN TO COLORS

LONDON, March 31.—Married groups 33 to 41 were today called to the colors to report May 5.

BRITISH CASUALTIES IN MARCH 20-44

LONDON, March 31.—British casualties in March were 1107 officers and 19,317 men, according to published lists.

STATE TREASURY HAS \$3,582,402.49 BALANCE

HARRISBURG, Pa., March 31.—The State Treasury at the close of business today, March 31, had a balance of \$3,582,402.49 on hand, as compared with \$4,458,494.41 at the close of business in February. The receipts for the month amounted to \$2,302,318.76, and disbursements \$3,212,410.69.

H. SNOWDEN MARSHALL FACES CONTEMPT CHARGE

WASHINGTON, March 31.—The House of Representatives will be asked to decide whether H. Snowden Marshall, Federal District Attorney in New York city, is in contempt of that body. This was decided on today by the House Judiciary Committee. A resolution citing Marshall to appear before the bar of the House and answer the contempt charges later will be presented to the House for action. The entire case grows out of the indictment returned against Representative Frank Buchanan, of Illinois, for alleged pro-German activities.

BRITISH ADMIRALTY DENIES BRONZE TORPEDO CHARGE

LONDON, March 31.—The Admiralty today issued an official denial of the semiofficial German accusation that the British navy uses bronze torpedoes.

COPS SEEK DOWNTOWN FIRE "BUG"

Police of the 4th street and Snyder avenue station are looking for a mysterious fire "bug" that was abroad last night. Two alarms, one from 11th and Mifflin streets and the others from 12th and Ritten streets, were sent in shortly after midnight. Hundreds of persons in the sections rushed to the street at each alarm, but careful search failed to reveal a fire in either instance.

GOLD BEATERS OUT ON STRIKE

The gold beaters are on strike. This strike is country wide and affects, all told, about 600 men who make their living by pounding the precious metal into dust preparatory to its being formed for sheeting purposes. There are 115 men cut in this city. The strikers demand more money. They now make \$14.50 to \$18.50 a week and want an average increase of \$4.

GRAND DUKE'S ASSASSIN DIES OF TUBERCULOSIS

LONDON, March 31.—A Daily News dispatch from Milan says that Nedo Korovitch, one of the convicted assassins of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary at Sarajevo, the act that precipitated the European war, is reported by Vienna papers to have died of tuberculosis in prison. Korovitch is the third of the band found guilty of the murder who is alleged to have died in prison of the same disease. He was originally sentenced to death, but his sentence was commuted to 20 years' penal servitude.

ORCHESTRA TO GIVE "POP" CONCERTS IN MAY

The "pop" concerts of the Philadelphia Orchestra will be held again this year, and for three weeks instead of two. This announcement has been made definitely. The concerts will be held during the week of May 1 and again for two weeks beginning May 15. Thaddeus Rich, concertmaster of the orchestra, and Daniel Maquarre, first flute, will conduct.

2000 ARMS WORKERS ON STRIKE IN CLYDE DISTRICT

LONDON, March 31.—Two thousand munition workers are now on strike in the Government gun factories in the Clyde district, and reports from Glasgow today said the labor troubles threatened to spread. Fewer than 400 strikers have returned to work in spite of the pressure of union leaders.

The Government today directed serious attention to the situation at Liverpool, where 10,000 dock workers rejected the award of arbitrators and refused to return to work.

22,000 SERBS PERISHED IN FLIGHT TO SALONICA

BERN, March 31.—All but 8000 of the 30,000 Serbian refugees who fled toward Salonica when the German and Bulgarian army invaded Serbia perished on the way from cold and hunger, according to a report received here from Mile. Comte, of Geneva, who is the Salonica agent of the Swiss Red Cross.

GERMAN SHIPS TO CARRY AID TO BELGIANS

LONDON, March 31.—In accordance with the announcement by Lord Robert Cecil, Minister of War Trade, that the British Government had decided to permit the American Commission for Relief of Belgium to charter German steamships in neutral ports, eight interned German ships at New York will be chartered.

PRUSSIAN LORDS WANT VOICE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS

BERLIN, March 31.—The Prussian House of Lords is unable to share the Government's views, as expressed in the Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung on February 12, that only the Reichstag is competent to discuss the empire's foreign affairs. This declaration is set forth in a statement issued in behalf of both factions in the House. The House of Lords, it is added, recognizes that any such discussion take into consideration the military situation and that such discussion accordingly Lords declare, however, that while fully recognizing the extraordinary difficulties of the situation, they hold the view that "mistakes have been made in the internal policy."